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22 May 1985

OLL 85-1524

MEMORANDUM FOR: House Committee on Foreign Affairs

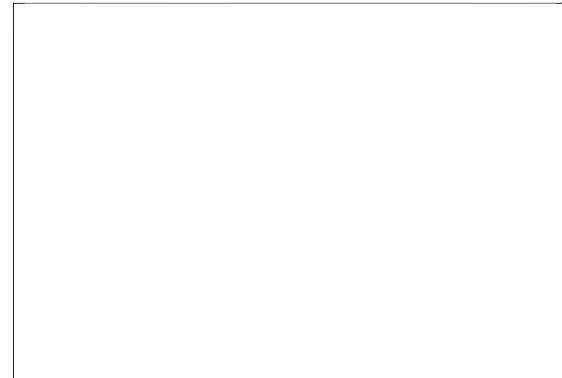
ATTENTION: Jerry Pitchford
Bruce Rickerson
Kevin Callwood

SUBJECT: Roundtable Discussion on Africa in the 1990s

1. Thank you for accepting our invitation to attend a roundtable discussion on Africa in the 1990s at Headquarters Building Wednesday, 29 May 1985, at 10 A.M.

2. Attached please find an agenda and a one-page summary of the issues.

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Attachments:
As stated

THIS MEMORANDUM IS UNCLASSIFIED WHEN
SEPARATED FROM THE ATTACHMENT

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Africa in the 1990s: Key Issues for the United States

Roundtable Discussion
29 May, 1985, 10 A.M.

- I. Introductions
- II. Economic Overview
Political Overview
- III. Southern Africa:
 - Is the current National Party reform strategy doomed to failure?
 - Will the US be able to depend upon South Africa to maintain its regional dominance?
- IV. Africa's Economic Decline:
 - Should the West continue to feed African nations indefinitely?
 - Is increased development assistance a solution to Africa's economic crisis?
- V. Foreign Policy Implications:
 - Will the West have to intervene more often to prop up faltering African governments..?
 - Is Africa largely irrelevant to the superpower conflict?
- VI. Are there any economic or political developments that could reverse Africa's decline?

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Africa in the 1990s: Key Issues for the United States

Preliminary Discussion

Sub-Saharan Africa's continued economic decline is likely to present some difficult policy choices for the United States over the next ten years. Rapid population growth, agricultural stagnation, diminished export earnings, and low levels of investment capital for future growth all point to increased poverty and donor dependency in the years ahead. Developed countries will be asked to provide greater amounts of food aid to a growing number of African countries, some of which will have unacceptable policies and/or ideologies. "Friendly governments" will make even greater demands on donors for financial assistance, possibly including such measures as trade concessions and debt relief.

Most African leaders have been unable or unwilling to institute basic reforms that could stem the economic decline because they have been preoccupied with their short-term survival. Solutions that may have favorable results only in the longer-term, therefore, are politically unacceptable. The ethnic, regional, and sometimes religious divisions that thwart the development of stable political institutions in most African nations appear to be growing. There has been a visible erosion of central authority in many states as evidenced by the proliferation of low-level insurgencies, the prominence of the informal economic sector, and rampant corruption.

The emergence of a new generation of African leaders amid this economic decline and political instability could pose additional problems for the West. The charismatic, independence-era personalities will be replaced by new group of leaders that are essentially ideological unknowns. The potential exists for the creation of regimes based on tribal domination, Islamic fundamentalism, xenophobia, or even a new brand of pan-Africanism that espouses extreme, unorthodox policies.

Developments in South Africa will present another set problems for US policy-makers in the 1990s. The pace of internal change, the direction of black politics, the determination of whites to retain control, and South Africa's relations with its black neighbors are all variables to which US policy must respond in the coming years.

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